



Summer 2023

## 2023 SLA Leadership Update

Welcome to the summer of 2023! SLA leadership has planned another exciting year of events to bring the Sunset Lake community together and we hope that you are able to participate. This year, in addition to the regular Saturday morning paddles and monthly “light up the night” firepits/paddles, we are hosting guided hikes in every month throughout the year. We will also hold our 2nd annual “Sunset Lake in Lights” house/yard decorating event on July 29th, renamed from “Christmas in July”, our annual meeting and BBQ at Meetinghouse Park on July 15th, and our decorated boat parade on August 19th. We hope that you will all find many events in which you are able to participate and come out and meet some new friends!

We also continue to carry out all of our functions of our core mission to preserve the health and beauty of Sunset Lake. In addition to our regular water testing, we continue to mitigate Purple Loosestrife and Common Reed on the shores of the lake. We have also partnered with NH Lakes in their LakeSmart Lake-Friendly Living Program to help Sunset Lake residence identify specific ways in which they can contribute to protecting and improving the water quality and cleanliness of the lake.

As always, we thank all of our members who joined the SLA or contributed to our organization which allows us to do all that we do. We extend special thanks to the 38% of our members who chose the Loon Lover, Weed Watcher, and Lake Leader membership levels in 2022 which help with special initiatives. We are extremely appreciative of all of our members support!

This newsletter provides information on all of the above items and many more. We hope that you enjoy it!

Thank you again and we look forward to seeing you all on the lake or at one or more of our events,  
SLA Board of Directors, Delegates, and Alternates

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## 2nd Annual “Sunset Lake in Lights” event!

Last July, we successfully kicked off a new tradition on Sunset Lake where over 20 residents decorated their houses/yards for our “Christmas in July” event. This year, we have renamed the event “Sunset Lake in Lights” to encourage decorating in any theme (patriotic/4th of July, Halloween, Christmas, tiki torches, etc.) and we hope that you all decide to participate.

On Saturday, July 29, decorate your house, yard, and/or boat with lights so that it can be seen at night and enjoyed by paddlers, boaters, and everyone around the lake. Get your fire pit going so we make this a virtual party or join our group paddle around the lake to view the houses! Thanks to our local business sponsors (see bottom of page), we will have awards for the best decorations. Let’s continue to build up a great new tradition!



## Sunset Lake Annual Boat Parade

Carrying on one of our longest traditions, we will have our annual decorated boat parade on **Saturday, August 19 at 2:00 pm** with a rain date of August 20. Boats will assemble just off the town beach at 1:30 for photos and to line up.

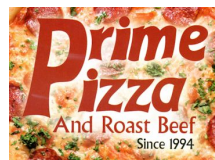
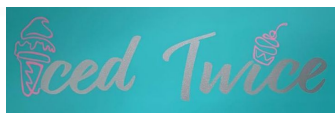
The community will again choose the winners with online voting and thanks to the sponsorship of local businesses (see below), we will again have prizes for the top participants.

There is no theme so that all participants can show off their full creativity. Inspiration can be found on [Pinterest](#) and [Bing](#) and you can see photos from previous years on [the SLA photos page](#). Please ensure that all decorations are tightly secured to your boats so they don’t become litter in the lake and be sure to follow all NH boating rules and regulations including having all passengers inside boat railings while underway.

If you plan to participate in the parade, please register here: <https://forms.gle/7BDaT7MqW2LdvYAm9>. Check [www.facebook.com/slahampstead/events](http://www.facebook.com/slahampstead/events) or [www.slahampstead.org](http://www.slahampstead.org) for updates as we get closer to the event. We look forward to seeing all the creativity of the Sunset Lake community!

## Thank you to our Sponsors!

We want to thank the local businesses who have sponsored our 2023 Sunset Lake in Lights and Decorated Boat Parade events. Please be sure to give your support to these great local businesses!



If you know of a business that would like to sponsor one or both events, please contact [info@slahampstead.org](mailto:info@slahampstead.org).



## 2023 Paddle Events

Join old friends or meet some new ones for a 1 ½ hour paddle around the lake for some great camaraderie and exercise. These events take place twice a month on Saturday mornings and on four evenings during our light up the night events. All paddles start from the Hampstead Town Beach at the times/dates shown in the calendar below.

## 2023 Calendar of Events



Sat, Jan 21, 8:30 am	Morning hike
Sat, Feb 18, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, Mar 18, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, Apr 8, 9:00 am	Road cleanup
Sat, Apr 15, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, Apr 22, 7:00 pm	Light Up the Night
Sat, May 13, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sun, May 28, 8:00 pm (backup: May 27)	Memorial Day Weekend Light Up the Night and evening paddle
Sat, June 3, 9:00 am	Morning paddle
Sat, June 10, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, June 17, 9:00 am	Morning paddle
Sat, June 24, 8:00 pm (backup: June 23)	Independence Day Festival Light Up the Night and evening paddle
Sat, July 1, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, July 8, 9:00 am	Morning paddle
Sat, July 15, 9:00 am	SLA Annual Meeting & BBQ
Sat, July 22, 9:00 am	Morning paddle
Sat, July 29, 8:30 pm (backup: July 28)	Sunset Lake in Lights House/Yard Decorating and evening paddle
Sat, Aug 5, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, Aug 12, 9:00 am	Morning paddle
Sat, Aug 19, 2:00 pm (backup: Aug 20)	Decorated Boat Parade
Sat, Aug 26, 9:00 am	Morning paddle
Sun, Sept 3, 7:00 pm (backup: Sept 2)	Labor Day Weekend Light Up the Night and evening paddle
Sat, Sept 9, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, Sept 30, 6:00 pm (backup: Sept 29)	Light Up the Night
Sat, Oct 7, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, Oct 14, 9:00 am	Road cleanup
Sat, Oct 28, 5:00 pm (backup: Oct 27)	Light Up the Night
Sat, Nov 18, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, Dec 16, 9:00 am	Morning hike

Learn more about all of these events at [www.slahampstead.org](http://www.slahampstead.org) or [www.facebook.com/slahampstead/events](https://www.facebook.com/slahampstead/events)



## SLA Adopted Road Cleanup

A big shout out to all of our volunteers who continue to help us keep our town beautiful by cleaning the SLA adopted roads of Kent Farm, Wash Pond, and Ells Roads. Our next cleanup event is **Saturday, October 14 at 9:00 am**. Watch your email or our [Facebook page](#) for more information about opportunities to participate in this event.

# 2023 SLA Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting and BBQ is on **Saturday, July 15th at 9:00 am** at Meetinghouse Park, 20 Emerson Avenue. Get the latest news and updates from the SLA, see presentations from external guests, vote for the incoming Board of Directors and amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws, and ask questions or voice concerns. We welcome all members, potential members, and guests.



Guest speakers:

**Amy Smagula, Limnologist/Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator, NH DES**

*What is Unwanted and Growing in Your Lake?*

Amy will talk about aquatic invasive species in and around Sunset Lake, as well as touch on harmful algae blooms and what to do if you find any of these things.

**Bob Craycraft, Educational Program Coordinator, Lakes Lay Monitoring Program, UNH Extension**

*Sunset Lake: Past, Present, and Future*

Bob will talk about Sunset Lake's formation over 10,000 years ago via glaciation and the natural aging process of NH lakes. He will give an update on the current status of Sunset Lake, projections for the future, and how we can all influence the aging of the lake.

The meeting is outdoors and will be held rain or shine; we will have portable tents for shade from the sun and inclement weather. Please bring your own lawn chair. Hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages, condiments, plates, and utensils will be provided for the BBQ. We appreciate if individuals can bring a salad, side, or dessert to share. Please, no glass containers of any kind are allowed at Meetinghouse Park.



The SLA is a volunteer/community organization and we want and need all of your participation to be successful in our mission; we hope that you will all come and participate in our annual meeting!



## New Bench at Hampstead Town Beach

Thanks to Hampstead residents contributing plastic through the Hampstead Trex Community Recycling Program, we have a new bench at the town beach!

We want to thank the Recreational Commission for approving the addition of the bench to the beach and a very special thanks to Darlene Cote who managed the Trex program at the time that the bench was acquired. The Sunset Lake Association provided the installation materials and labor.

This was a great collaborative town effort and we hope that everyone enjoys the new bench!

# Weed Watchers Update

In the summer of 2022, the SLA continued to removed Purple Loosestrife plants from multiple locations around the shores of Sunset Lake. Purple Loosestrife is a stubborn shoreline invasive species that takes multiple years to mitigate so we will continue to keep up with it each year. We want to thank those residents that are helping to mitigate the plants on their own shorefront. For more information about this effort, please [see this blog post](#).

You may remember that in 2021, a new shoreline invasive species to Sunset Lake, Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), was discovered through the SOLitude Lake Management aquatic plant survey ([see this blog post](#)). In the summer of 2022, we started to mitigate the Common Reed and we continue those efforts in 2023. This effort involves removing small infestations by hand, but also smothering the largest infestation on the lake with fabric as shown in this image, under the direction of the NHDES. To learn more about this mitigation effort, [see this blog post](#).



If you would like to help keep Sunset Lake free of invasive species, please consider joining the SLA and contributing at the [Weed Watcher or Lake Leader level](#) or joining our volunteer Weed Watcher monitoring program by contacting [info@slahampstead.org](mailto:info@slahampstead.org). We need more volunteers and it only takes 30-60 minutes per month during the warm months to help us keep an eye out for invasive species.

Be sure to attend our annual meeting on July 15th where Amy Smagula, Limnologist/Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator at NH DES will talk about invasive species in and around Sunset Lake.

## Sunset Lake Merchandise

We now have two online stores offering great Sunset Lake merchandise. Show off your pride of Sunset Lake with some great clothing or other items or get an item as a gift for that special person who really loves Sunset Lake!



**Zazzle** This is our new online store that has many Sunset Lake related items including calendars, puzzles, postcards, stationary, drinkware, clothing, and much more. Zazzle almost always has a discount from 10%-50% on various items in the store. Visit <https://www.zazzle.com/store/slahampstead>

**Teespring** This is our original online store that has a large selection of clothing styles and colors with the Sunset Lake logo including women's and children's clothing. It also has many more items with the Sunset Lake logo such as hats, beach towels, drinkware, and more. Visit <https://slahampstead.creator-spring.com/>



A small amount of proceeds from each sale in both stores supports the Sunset Lake Association's mission.

## Are You LakeSmart?

Starting in 2022, the Sunset Lake Association started a partnership with NH Lakes in their [LakeSmart Lake-Friendly Living Program](#). LakeSmart is an education, evaluation, and recognition program that is free, voluntary, and non-regulatory. It includes an evaluation process to determine how lake-friendly your property and activities are. The evaluation covers driveway and parking areas, structures and wastewater treatment systems, and yard and play areas. For properties along the water, the shoreline and shallow water areas of the lake are included. You may be pleasantly surprised by very simple changes that you can make to help the health of Sunset Lake. This assessment can also be very useful if you plan to make changes to your property or landscaping.

You start by taking the [FREE, confidential, 15 minute online assessment](#) which will provide you with a custom, step-by-step plan with lake-friendly ideas for your property. You may decide that taking the assessment and receiving the report is enough for you. If you want to take the next step, you can request a free and confidential 1 hour follow-up site visit from a LakeSmart evaluator for further feedback.

In 2022, we had 9 properties take advantage of the self-assessment, 7 of which had in-person site visits to evaluate their property for lake-friendliness or to gain knowledge on how to improve their property. Many participants were excited to get feedback, especially on those difficult landscaping spots. Congratulations to Steve Ungerer's family (SLA BOD member), the first Sunset Lake residents to receive the LakeSmart award. Many of the other participants only need to make 1 or 2 minor adjustments to also receive the award.



For 2023, Julie Vasseur (SLA BOD Member, Water Quality Committee Chair) and Jim Wilkinson (SLA BOD Chair) are in training so that they can become local resources for feedback on property improvements and help perform on-site evaluations for the Sunset Lake community at any time throughout the year. NH Lakes evaluators will be at Sunset Lake for on-site evaluations the week of July 31st and Julie and Jim will attend to complete their training.

Remember that what happens on your property affects Sunset Lake, whether you live directly on the lake or away from it within the Sunset Lake watershed. The LakeSmart Program helps ensure a healthy lake for current and future generations and helps to protect all of our property values. We hope that you will participate!

## Help us make Sunset Lake more healthy: Become LakeSmart!



NH Lakes LakeSmart is an education, evaluation, and recognition program that is free, voluntary, and non-regulatory involving 3 easy steps:

1. **Complete a Self-Evaluation:** it's free, takes 15 minutes, and you get a personalized report
2. **Make Lake-Friendly Updates:** Update your property as recommended by the report
3. **Get a FREE Site Visit:** Free, confidential site visits will be performed in the Sunset Lake community the week of July 31st.

Visit <https://nhlakes.org/lakesmart/> today for more information and to do your free, self-evaluation

# Sunset Lake History - The Ells Neighborhood

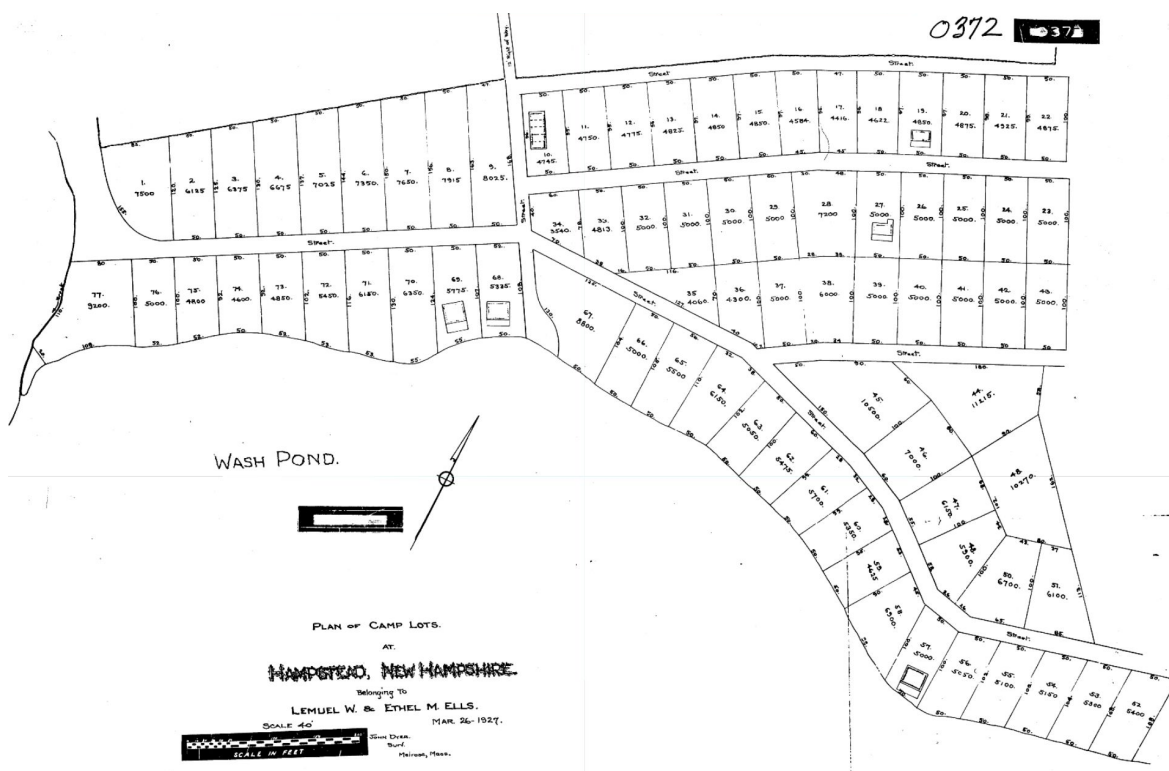
Jim Wilkinson, SLA Board Chairman, District 4

As we learned in our [last newsletter](#), there was a boom of development starting in the late 1920's that started to shape the Sunset Lake neighborhoods as we know them today. The very first one of these developments was known as Sunset Lake Cottages (today's Ells neighborhood) and was perhaps the most special development on the lake. Not only was this the first major neighborhood of cottages and houses developed on the lake, but it was one of the centers of the Hampstead social scene for many decades.

Lemuel and Ethel Ells of Melrose, MA acquired the 18 acre property in 1926. Lemuel was a builder and almost immediately put a plan in place for 77 camp lots on the western side of the property, as is shown in the original plan below. He would sell empty camp lots, or sell or rent cottages which he built on the camp lots. The postcard to the right is taken from today's Hampstead Town Beach looking west at two of the very first cottages. Both of these cottages existed until 2019 when the two lots were combined and the cottage closest to the town beach was torn down to add on to the original cottage at 4 Edgewater Lane.



Cottages at Sunset Lake, Hampstead, N. H.



Bathing Beach Sunset Lake Hampstead N.H.

The Ells neighborhood had much more than just cottages to entertain guests of the neighborhood. In this post card from 1930, you can see that there once was a stone wall along the beachfront of the store, restaurant, and dance hall that were located where the Hampstead Town Beach is today. There was also a larger pavilion building with a kitchen and baseball field on the land which today is 10 Ells Road and 89 Kent Farm Road. The "Sunset Lake Pavilion" was the "go to" place for summer outings for church groups and other organizations in Hampstead and surrounding towns from the '20s until the '70's.

(continued on next page)

## Sunset Lake History - The Ells Neighborhood (continued)

The Ells ran their business together until Lemuel passed away in 1950. However, that did not stop Ethel “Mrs.” or “Grammie” Ells who continued to run the business, living in a residence attached to the store, until she retired at the end of the 1970 season. Grammie Ells is perhaps the best remembered part of the history of this area selling ice cream and candy to the local children. Her son Warren took over the business until 1973 when it was sold to Aime & Monique Gingras who operated the business until 1977 when they sold their 6 lots to the Town of Hampstead; these lots became today’s Town Beach and its associated parking areas. There is so much more history to this neighborhood than can fit on these pages. For more history and photos of Sunset Lake and the Ells Neighborhood visit: <https://slahampstead.org/sunset-lake-history>

### Resources:

Postcards courtesy of Carollee & Harry Ayan

Plan and deed history from the *Rockingham County Registry of Deeds*

History from *The Derry Times* and anecdotes from local residents

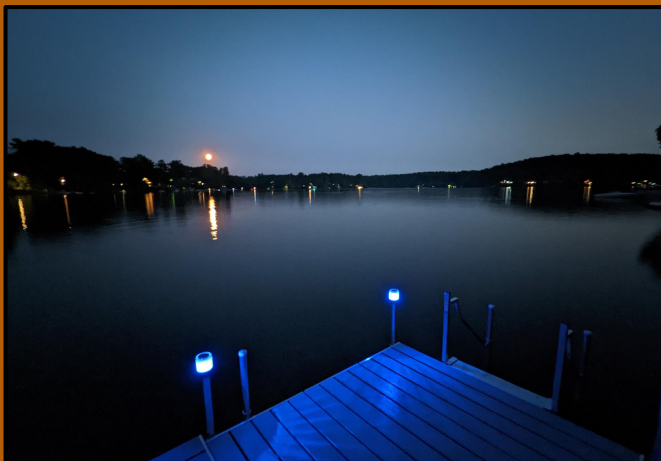
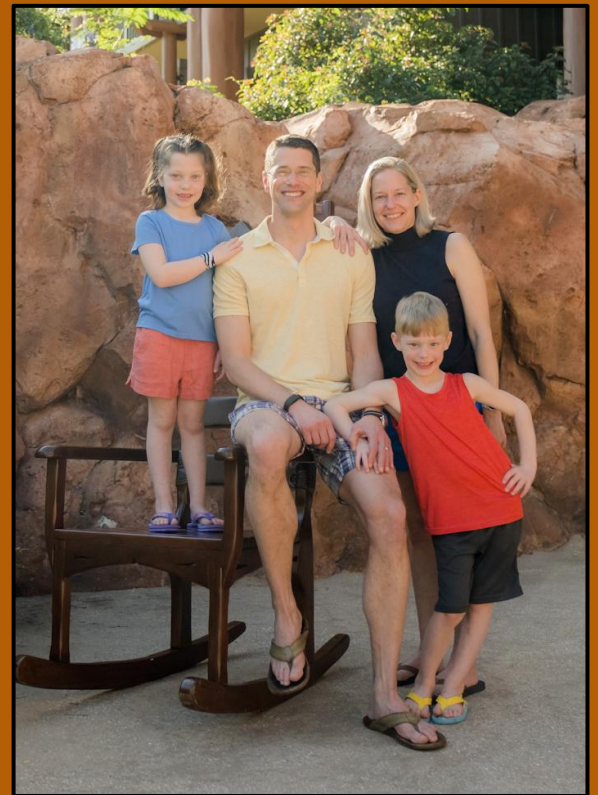
## SLA Leadership Corner

### Steve Ungerer, SLA Board Member, District 3

After meeting in 1997, Lacey decided I wasn't all that terrible and we moved to Hampstead in 2007 after some time spent living in the Boston area. Lacey is originally from Maine (just outside Portland) and I'm originally from New York (about 40 miles north of NYC) and Hampstead checked all the boxes.

Twins Daphne and Nelson arrived in 2016 and we realized our house at the time wasn't the best fit. We considered a second house as a summer/weekend getaway, but then Lacey found an available waterfront lot right in town; why have two houses when we could be on the lake year round?! We survived the home building process and we made the 2 mile move to lake living in June 2018.

Apart from us and the kids, we share the house with an elderly Australian shepherd, 2 cats, a rabbit, and more stuffed animals than we could ever count.



Lacey manages the Reproductive Endocrinology lab at Mass General, and I'm a principal software engineer for Brandwatch. Outside of work you'll find our entire family enjoying the lake via our boat, kayaks, various water toys, or just swimming and soaking in the sun. Away from the water, Lacey enjoys running and gardening while I serve on the Hampstead Conservation Commission and am happiest with a hoppy beer after a long bike ride.

We can't believe we've already lived here 5 years, but we're looking forward to the next 50.



# Thank you to our 2023 Members!

Thank you for your dedication to preserving the health and beauty of Sunset Lake!

## Lake Leaders

Camp Tel Noar (L)	Jean Lisien	Christine Sullivan
Michael & Maureen Dewey (L)	Kendra Neville (L)	Sunset Park Campground (L)
Wassim Elyaman & Betsy Bradshaw (L)	Dale & Gale Putnam (L)	Nic, Elisha, & Michael Todesca
Paul & Lynn D'Adamo	Gabrielle Smith (L)	Mike & Pam Trenholm (L)
Janet & Greg Germanton (L)	Lisa Sperry	The Ungerer Family (L)
Bruce & Christine Hamilton	Howie Steadman (L)	Julie & Ed Vasseur (L)
Richard & Marsha Killilea		Jim & Pat Wilkinson (L)

## Weed Watchers

Kate Brick & Charles Backman	Nate & Priscilla Clark & Heidi Hayes	Mark & Wanda Molligi
Jim & Jane Baratt	Neil & Diane Croteau	Ian & Katia Samuelson (L)
Meredith Dewey & Will Eddington		Samuel Vienneau & Jillian Lurvey

## Loon Lovers

Keith & Louise Capulli (L)	Laura Dombrowski	Kevin & Jacqueline Murphy
Beth & Robert DellaGrotte (L)	Rick & Pam Hartung	Tom & Sue Wall
The Denault Family	The Manzik Family	Robin Wright & Mark Holloway

## SLA Supporters

The Bartolotta Family (L)	David & Lisa DeMio (L)	Nick & Sharon Pangaro
Joyce Bassett	The Halchak Family	The Phillips Family
Kerry Boles and Laura Walker (L)	Jason & Kristine Houle (L)	John & Susan Pierce
Samantha & Vinny Borbone (L)	Jennifer & Kalote Joss & Edward Burke (L)	Susan Polleys
John Boucher (L)	Bob & Regina Kuhl (L)	The Raposa Family (L)
The Buggy Family (L)	Jennifer & Steve Martin	Tom & Elizabeth Robinson (L)
Thomas Burdulis (L)	Rick and Lisa McQuesten (L)	Joe & Pam Santa Fe (L)
Ruth Ann Burkinshaw	Anita Miller	Tom Zack & Donna Warne (L)
Patricia & Paul Cambray (L)	Jim & Michelle Mize (L)	Dave & Debbie Webber (L)
Paul & Lorraine Comeau (L)	Brian & Nancy Nastasi	Joseph Winston (L)
Pearce Connal	Arthur & Wendy Osborn (L)	Alan & Judy Woodman
James & Beth Cronin (L)	Don & Candi Page (L)	20 anonymous (L)
Cheryl Crumb	Rosanne & David Palazola (L)	3 anonymous

(L) - designates lifetime members

# Sunset Lake Association Membership

Your membership is what allows us to continue to carry out our mission. Please consider renewing or joining with a \$25 annual membership or \$250 lifetime membership. You can optionally upgrade your annual or new/existing lifetime membership for the current calendar year with an additional \$10, \$25, or \$75 donation which supports various initiatives of our mission.

With your help, we can continue to preserve Sunset Lake and its surrounding area for current and future generations. You can join online, print and mail the membership form below to us, or bring it to the annual meeting.

## Online Membership

Make your annual or lifetime payment in minutes, safely and securely via credit card.  
For more information, please visit [www.slahampstead.org/membership](http://www.slahampstead.org/membership)



## Printed Membership Form

	<b>Annual</b> (pick one)	or	<b>Lifetime</b>	+	<b>2023 Add-on Contribution</b> (optionally pick one)
<b>SLA Supporter</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25		<input type="checkbox"/> \$250		<input type="checkbox"/> \$10
<b>Loon Lover</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35				<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
<b>Weed Watcher</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50				<input type="checkbox"/> \$75
<b>Lake Leader</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100				

Member Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

The SLA can list my name(s) and membership level in the member recognition listings

eMail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: Street or PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to "Sunset Lake Association" and either bring to the annual meeting or mail to:  
**Sunset Lake Association, P.O. Box 135, Hampstead, NH 03841**